

UPDATE

TO: The Joint Subcommittee of the City of Austin, AISD, and Travis County

FROM: Juan Ortiz, City of Austin, Director of Homeland Security and Emergency Management
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DATE: March 18, 2022

SUBJECT: **Resilience Hubs Update**

On April 8, 2021, Austin City Council passed Resolution No. 20210408-028, which directs the City Manager to engage with the Office of Sustainability and other relevant City departments, school districts, and external partners on Resilience Hubs to 1) create a plan, budget recommendations, funding strategies, and a timeline for designing and equipping an initial six pilot hubs for disasters, including the necessary power and water redundancies, and 2) budget recommendations, funding strategies, and a timeline for creating a community-wide resilience hub plan sufficient to serve all Austinites during emergencies.

City of Austin Staff has been collaborating with Austin Independent School District (AISD) and Travis County staff since the fall of 2021 and recently added Austin Community College to the Resilience Hubs initiative's core working group. The Joint Subcommittee last received a written update from staff on January 28, 2022.

Below is a summary of recent activities. This initiative represents a robust collaborative among key Central Texas agencies, which we believe will yield a strong long-term program aimed at better preparing our community to respond to and bounce back from extreme events.

Topic Area	Progress Update
Leadership and Team Structure	<p>Staff continues to meet regularly across agencies and partners to advance the Resilience Hub initiative. Four working groups have been created.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Leadership Team: This group recently discussed community engagement, the Community Advisory Committee, upcoming workshops, and ongoing questions about long-term staffing for Pilot Hubs.• Facility Planning: This group recently received presentations from Austin Energy and Austin Water on backup generators, solar PV with battery backup, and backup water technologies. These meetings have been very informative and educated everyone on the technological and economic realities of innovative resilience features for buildings.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Resilience Hub Activation: This group has included the Red Cross and the Texas Department of Emergency Management in Resilience Hub activation discussions. The group reviewed the different levels of hubs and correlated the levels with existing emergency management plans. • Community Involvement: This group has been reviewing and providing input on the community engagement process for Resilience Hubs and the process for the Community Advisory Committee Workshops, detailed below.
<p>Community Advisory Committee</p>	<p>A Community Advisory Committee was launched to provide support and guidance to the project team. The group will meet every other month throughout 2022. The purpose of the group is to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Build relationships and trust with each other, and in this process • Center equity in this work • Create a community understanding of past events and current efforts • Ensure that everyone feels acknowledged and heard • Increase collaboration across organizations <p>The group convened on March 11 to gather input on criteria to determine pilot neighborhoods and stories regarding how their organizations have provided community assistance.</p> <p>Two virtual workshops with this group will be held on March 21, and March 23, both from 9am-Noon. The purpose is to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create selection criteria for neighborhoods to receive Pilot Hubs • Identify 6 neighborhoods for the initial pilot phase <p>An update on the results of the workshops will be provided for the Joint Subcommittee meeting on March 25, 2022.</p>
<p>Community Engagement</p>	<p>Planning for community engagement is underway, which will be focused on building trust with the community and creating solutions with their input. Plans include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hiring a consultant to assist with engagement. The release of two invitations for quotes (IFQs) is underway. • Once 6 neighborhoods have been proposed as initial Pilot Hub areas, information will be obtained via surveys and interviews with community members. Data will be reviewed by staff and the Community Advisory Committee to help choose the 6 Pilot Hub locations. • Community members will also be engaged about the types of services, needs, programming, and resources that would be useful at these Pilot Hubs.

<p>2022 Goals & Benchmarks</p>	<p>The following goals have been set for 2022. <i>Progress Updates are noted in italics below.</i></p> <p>Mid 2022</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community Advisory Committee underway composed of representatives from nonprofit/community organizations <i>Underway.</i> • 6 initial Pilot Hub proposed locations identified. <i>On schedule to be accomplished by Summer 2022.</i> • Community engagement underway to refine 6 initial Pilot Hub concepts/strategies. <i>On schedule to be accomplished by Summer 2022.</i> <p>End of 2022</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 6 initial Pilot Hubs ready to be activated with supplies, training, and public communications. • Planning for four more Hub locations underway.
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CC: Spencer Cronk, City Manager
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